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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Action

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VZCZCDSA225
PP RUEHC RUQMAT RUQMGU RUQMSN RUQVHN
DE RUDSC 8693C 1132000
ZNR UUUUU
P 231925Z APR 67
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO:RUQMGU/AMEMBASSY ANKARA
RUQMAT/AMEMBASSY ATHENS
RUQVHN/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
RUFJC/AMEMBASSY PARIS
RUFUBE/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
RUQMSN/AMCONGEN ISTANBUL
RUFKCX/AMEMBASSY SOFIA
RUQMAT/AMCONGEN THESSALONIKI
STATE GRNC
BT
UNCLASLONDON 8693

SUBJ: GREED COUP

REF: LONDON 8690

1. APRIL 23 LONDON PAPERS FEATURE REPORTS OF KING CONSTANTINE'S OPPOSITION TO OR NON-INVOLVENENT IN COUP. LACK OF EDITORIAL COMMENT PROBABLY REFLECTS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHO DID WHAT IN ATHENS.

2. SUNDAY TIMES HAS BACKGROUND PIECE BY LABOR M P FRANCIS NOEL BAKER WHO NOTES STRONG INDICATION OF KING'S NON-INVOLVEMENT WAS ARRIVAL IN LONDON NIGHT BEFORE COUP OF "A KEY MEMBER OF PALACE STAFF" WHO KNEW NOTHING ABOUT COUP. NOEL BAKER OPINES GREECE'S GREAT NEED SINCE CIVIL WAR IS MORE MODERN ALIGNMENT OF POLITICAL FORCES, "A NEED COUP MAY RECOGNIZE BUT CANNOT MEET."

3. TIMES REPORTS SPANDIDAKOS NOT THE STRONG MAN. BRIG. STYLIANOS PATAKOS IS . OTHER ACCOUNTS NAME COL. GEORGIOS PAPADOPOULOS AND COL. NIKOLOS MAKAREZOS AS KEY DIGURES IN ADDITION PATAKOS.

(1)

4. IN STORY FROM ATHENS TO SUNDAY EXPRESS, ROBIN STAFFORD CITES UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT ANDREAS PAPANDREAU EXECUTED.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
RETIRED BY [illegible] DATE 6 MAY 1982

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ASKED BY STAFFORD WHY COUP NECESSARY, REGIME SPOKESMAN NICHOLAS FARMAKIS SAID" GEORGE PAPANDREAU AND THE COMMUNISTS WERE ABOUT TO BEGIN ACTIVE RESISTANCE TO THE GOVT"

5. EXPRESS ALSO RUNS PRE-COUP INTERVIEW WITH ANDREAS PAPANDREAU BY JOHN STEADMAN. ASKED IF HE WAS SOMETHING BETWEEN A NASSER AND A CASTRO? ANDREAS REPLIED," WHY NOT, IF IT MEANS I'M A NATIONALIST." ANDREAS REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE ALMOST INCONCEIVABLE FOR A GREEK PRIMIN NOT TO GET AMERICAN AMBASSADOR'S APPROVAL FOR MINISTERIAL CHANGES; "OUR ARMY INTELLIGENCE IS INTEERWOVEN INTO AMERICA'S. THE CIA SPEND MILLIONS HERE."

6. SUNDAY TELEGRAPH STRESSES KING'S " COURAGEOUS ATTEMPTS TO OPPOSE WILL OF MILITARY JUNTA"IT NOW BELIEVED KING SIGNED DECREE UNDER DURESS.

7. TELEGRAPH'S DEPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT DESCRIBES RECENT GROWTH OF " CRYPTO-COMMUNIST EDA."ANDREAS PAPANDREAU CHOSEN AS MOST SUITABLE LEADER OF POPULAR FRONT GROUP TO UNITE EDA WITH PARTS OF CENTER UNION. EDA'S PRICE MAY HAVE BEEN THAT ANDREAS TAKE GREECE OUT OF NATO. NEITHER THE PAPANDREOUS, NOR EDA, NOR RIGHT WINGERS WERE CERTAIN OF WINNING ELECTIONS. "THERE SOME EVIDENCE BOTH SIDES BEGAN PLOTTING EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY ACTION."
BRUCE